Amendments to the Abstract:
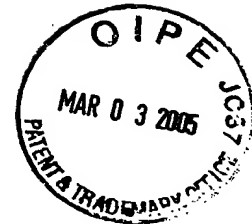
Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~The invention relates to a~~ <u>A</u> router device ~~(200) having~~ <u>has</u> a plurality of ingress line interface cards (LICs) ~~(212, 214, 216, 218)~~, a plurality of egress LIC's ~~(222, 224, 226, 228)~~, a backplane [[(230)]] and a controller [[(240)]]. Transmission of signals from the ingress LICs ~~(212, 214, 216, 218)~~ to the controller, [[(240)]] and ~~likewise the transmission of signals~~ from the controller [[(240)]] to each of the ingress ~~LICs (212, 214, 216, 218)~~ and ~~each of the~~ egress LICs ~~(222, 224, 226, 228)~~ takes place across the backplane [[(230)]]. Each ingress LIC ~~(212, 214, 216, 218)~~ is provided with a dedicated timeslot in which it can send information to the controller [[(240)]] via connection [[(242)]]. Information is sent in a slice within the dedicated timeslot and each egress LIC ~~(222, 224, 226, 228)~~ ignores data sent by a given ingress LIC within the timeslot assigned to said ingress LIC. A similar system is used for transmission of communications from the controller [[(240)]] to the LICs. It is thus possible to avoid provision of additional, dedicated communications paths between the LICs (ingress and egress) and the controller [[(240)]].

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